

Colorado

Medicaid Mental Health Capitation and Managed Care Program

Project Name:	Medicaid Mental Health Capitation
Initial Submission	1993
Scheduled Expiration:	April 9, 2003
Renewal Approved:	Pending

Program Summary

This waiver program requires Medicaid recipients to obtain mental health services from the entities that have contracted with the Medicaid agency. This "single point of entry" organization is known as a Mental Health Assessment and Services Agency (MHASA). The MHASA is responsible for assessing the need for services, coordinating services by providing or referring the recipients to an appropriate subcontracted provider, and monitoring the services received. Each MHASA has to facilitate and ensure that its Medicaid recipients have geographic access to a full continuum of mental health services, including inpatient care, and to coordinate with non-mental health providers.

Health Care Delivery

This waiver provides a mix of mental health services that meets the needs of consumers and their families in the State. It was approved in 1993 and implemented in 1995 in 51 counties. In the 1998 renewal, the remaining 12 counties of State were included. Eight contractors currently operate the program. The program requires Medicaid recipients residing in service areas included in the current Managed Care Program (MCP) to obtain mental health services from entities that have contracted with the Medicaid agency. Consumers are enrolled through a single point of entry, to one of the eight organizations known as a Mental Health Assessment and Services Agency (MHASA), formerly known as a Coordinated Assessment and Services Agency (CASA). The goal of the program is to promote and assist in the recovery of individuals with mental illness through innovative services that empower consumers and their families to determine and achieve their goals. It also assures access to necessary mental health services for consumers and families. As a result of this waiver the State developed many services such as crisis beds, respite care, self-help groups, and home-based services. It also resulted in expansion of existing community-based services.

Benefit Package

The program provides a range of mental health services including emergency services, in-patient and residential services.

Cost Effectiveness

Program has been proven to be cost effective throughout its years of operation.